

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DACCA 05496 300544Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 SP-02 PRS-01 SS-15
USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00 MCT-01 SCS-03 CA-01 /083 W
-----103731 300551Z /13

Z O 300425Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 6415
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DACCA 5496

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS BG JA
SUBJECT: JAL HIJACKING

1. I HAVE JUST SEEN THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR YOSHIOKA WHO SAYS THE JAL PLANE CARRYING THE MONEY AND PRISONERS WILL LEAVE TOKYO AT 0600 ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 AND ARRIVE DACCA 1200 HOURS DACCA TIME. THIS WILL REQUIRE AN EXTENSION OF THE HIJACKERS' DEADLINE BY EIGHT HOURS. YOSHIOKA WILL REQUEST MARSHAL MAHMUD TO PUT THIS UP TO THE HIJACKERS AND ASK FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE. YOSHIOKA SAID HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVE THE EXTENSION WILL BE GIVEN. THE HIJACKERS AGREED TO AN APPROXIMATELY THIRTY-HOUR EXTENSION YESTERDAY WITHOUT EVEN A FIXED PLAN FOR MEETING THEIR DEMANDS. ONCE THEY KNOW THAT THE PLANE CARRYING THE PRISONERS AND MONEY IS UNDERWAY, THE GOJ IS CONFIDENT THAT AN EXTENSION WILL BE GIVEN.

2. REGARDING DETAILS, YOSHIOKA SAID THE GOJ WILL FULLY MEET THE HIJACKERS' DEMAND REGARDING MONEY. THE PLANE WILL CARRY \$6 MILLION IN \$100 BILLS. REGARDING PRISONERS, THERE IS A PROBLEM. THREE HAVE FIRMLY REJECTED BEING TURNED OVER TO THE HIJACKERS, CLAIMING THAT THEY HAVE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 DACCA 05496 300544Z

"DIFFERENT VIEWS" FROM THIS GROUP. THEY APPARENTLY BELONG TO A DIFFERENT FACTION AND ARE CONCERNED FOR THEIR SAFETY IF TURNED OVER TO THIS ELEMENT. YOSHIOKA SAID THAT ONE MORE PRISONER IS "HESITATING" AND MAY POSSIBLY REFUSE RELEASE. HE ADDED THAT THE GOJ WOULD NOT FORCE THE PRISONERS TO COME TO DACCA BUT WILL BRING ALL WHO COME WILLINGLY.

3. THE JAL PLANE WILL ALSO CARRY THE DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE JAPANESE CABINET, FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS AND OTHERS. THESE OFFICIALS WILL BRING WRITTEN PROOF THAT THOSE PRISONERS NOT INCLUDED HAVE FIRMLY REJECTED RELEASE. THIS STATEMENT WILL CLEARLY SHOW THAT THEY HAVE STAYED BEHIND IN JAPAN OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.

4. YOSHIOKA SEES ANOTHER PROBLEM IN DEPARTURE OF THE HIJACKED PLANE FROM DACCA ONCE NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMPLETED. THE GOJ, AS IN EARLIER HIJACKS, HAS TAKEN THE FIRM POSITION THAT IT CANNOT DEPART UNTIL THE HIJACKERS HAVE IDENTIFIED A FIRM DESTINATION. JAPAN WILL THEN CONFIRM IF THE PLANE WILL BE RECEIVED AND PERMITTED TO LAND AT THIS LOCATION. YOSHIOKA SAID MARSHAL MAHMUD HAS AGREED BUT HAS ALSO SAID THE BDG CANNOT "SHOOT DOWN" THE JAL PLANE IF IT ATTEMPTS TO LEAVE WITHOUT THIS DEMAND HAVING BEEN MET. THE GOJ ALSO WOULD NOT FAVOR SUCH A DRASTIC MOVE BUT THINKS PERHAPS BARRICADES COULD BE PLACED ON THE RUNWAYS. THIS WILL BE NEGOTIATED INITIALLY BETWEEN THE JAPANESE AND MAHMUD. I BELIEVE MAHMUD WILL RESIST ANY EFFORT TO PREVENT THE PLANE FROM DEPARTING, ASSUMING THE HOSTAGES HAVE BEEN RELEASED.

5. YOSHIOKA SAID JAPAN BELIEVES THAT MAHMUD IS CONDUCTING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 DACCA 05496 300544Z

THE NEGOTIATIONS IN AN EXCELLENT MANNER. HE IS FRIENDLY, PERSISTENT BUT DIGNIFIED. HE STRESSES THE POVERTY OF BANGLADESH AND THE MANY PROBLEMS THIS NATION FACES. THE RED ARMY LEADERS CALL HIM A FRIEND, SEEM TO RELATE TO HIM AND WILL DEAL ONLY WITH MAHMUD. AN EFFORT YESTERDAY TO GET THE HIJACKERS TO TALK DIRECTLY WITH AMBASSADOR YOSHIOKA WAS REJECTED BY THE HIJACKERS.

6. YOSHIOKA SAID THE JAPANESE OFFICIALS ADVISING MAHMUD WILL MAKE ADDITIONAL EFFORTS TODAY TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF PASSENGERS. THEY ARE NOT SURE WHETHER THIS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL BUT VERY MUCH HOPE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOSTAGES,

7. COMMENT. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS DISCUSSION AND MY EARLIER TELEPHONE TALK WITH MARSHAL MAHMUD, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO INQUIRE FURTHER REGARDING CONTINGENCY PLANS OR CAPABILITIES FOR COMMANDO STYLE OPERATIONS. I DO NOT BELIEVE SUCH PLANS EXIST AND I AM CONVINCED THAT THE BANLADESHIS LACK THE CAPABILITY TO CARRY ONE OUT SUCCESSFULLY. THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THIS CRITICAL AFFAIR IS A NEGOTIATED ONE. AS I SEE IT FROM

HERE, THE JAPANESE WILL JUST HAVE TO MAKE WHATEVER
CONCESSIONS ARE REQUIRED TO INSURE THE ULTIMATE SAFE
RELEASE OF ALL PASSENGERS. I HAVE JUST BEEN CALLED
TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S OFFICE AND WILL REPORT FURHTHER
ON THE OUTCOME OF THAT MEETING.
MASTERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DACCA05496
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770356-0630
Format: TEL
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977095/aaaaadle.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3e138942-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1225895
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAL HIJACKING
TAGS: PINS, PORS, BG, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3e138942-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009